

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 3 as follows:**

If primary computer system 102 fails, a “failover” operation is initiated, which causes secondary computer system 103 to take over for primary computer system 102. This failover operation is made possible by periodically moving state information from primary computer system 102 to secondary computer system 103, so that secondary has enough information to take over from primary computer system 102 when primary computer system 102 fails. Secondary computer system 103 needs only enough information to recover operations seen by surviving computer systems. Hence, when primary computer system 102 crashes, a partially completed operation that has not been communicated to other computer systems does not have to be completed. During failover, hardware 118 communicates with non-volatile storage 122 in a manner similar to hardware 117.